

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/UNAPPROVED

To: Community Services Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Commission Meeting June 10, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Laurie Jean Hannon at 5:32 p.m. She thanked the Commission for changing the meeting to June 10th.

I. Attendance:

Present: William Carey, Michael Compare, Scott Leamon, Thomas Balga, Judith McKay, Laurie Jean Hannon, and Antoinette McKeon.

Staff: Gerardo Sorkin, Director and Dan Riccio, Jr. (Secretary).

Absent: Walter Heinig and Frank Kruglik.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

There are two corrections to the May 14, 2008 meeting. Laurie Jean Hannon stated she did not make a Motion to Accept the Minutes and to Adjourn. Correction: Judith McKay made a Motion to accept the Minutes, Seconded by Michael Compare. Correction: Michael Compare made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Antoinette McKeon. The minutes were approved and Scott Leamon made a Motion to accept the Minutes of May 14, 2008, seconded by Judith McKay.

III. Correspondence:

There is none to discuss.

IV. Director's Report:

Community Services Division:

Counseling Services:

Laurie DePaola, Counselor, will present later in the meeting.

Senior Center:

Hopefully we will know the status of the \$750,000 Small Cities Grant applied for from the State in September or October.

Relay for Life Program – A fundraiser was held and positive feedback from the seniors was received. They would like to have more evening activities.

The new No Show Policy has been in effect. When a senior arranges for a ride, the bus driver will wait five minutes and if there is no answer, they call the Senior Center. The Center will call the home, and then the name of the relative listed on the emergency list will be contacted. If there is no response, 911 will be called.

During the recent heat wave, the Senior Center became a Cooling Center until 8:00 p.m. Low key activities and water was provided. Department Heads were notified and the Center was available for town residents also. The Commission would like some statistics as to how many people attended. These will be provided at the next meeting.

Day Care:

The Day Care celebrated several activities. One was a cultural activity and parents attended. A Special Person Day was held on June 6th. Parents and teachers attended. Invitations could be sent to Commissioners for future activities if they would like to attend.

DPH made an unannounced inspection on May 23rd and minor things were found out of compliance. A corrective action plan has been submitted already.

Youth Services:

Substance Abuse Prevention: Approximately 2,000 students received presentations by MADD co-sponsored with the Board of Education.

Breath Express: Held at the Middle School and approximately 300 students attended to learn about the consequences of smoking. Tobacco prevention was discussed.

Summer employment for special needs students is co-sponsored by the Board of Education and a grant allows approximately thirteen students with special needs to work throughout the summer.

Planning for Project Graduation is going well for June 23rd.

Clinical Counseling Services:

Laurie DePaola, Counselor, presented an overview of the clinical services and community outreach services available to North Haven residents. The current clinical staff consists of two licensed clinical social workers and a licensed professional counselor, as well as our staff psychiatrist who prescribes and monitors medication for clients who need medication therapy. An on-call clinician is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We accept insurances and there is a sliding fee scale for those without insurance. No one is turned away because of income issues. We provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment to children and adolescents, adults, families, and couples. We also have group therapy.

Community outreach includes providing support services to fire and police personnel when residents are in crisis or need social service interventions. We provide resources and education about mental health to community members if requested.

The counselors work closely with the school system, providing services to students who are referred by the guidance and social work staff, and provide crisis intervention when the students and staff are affected by tragic events.

As an agency we are responsible for reporting statistics about our services to the LMHA and to the State DMHAS. We are in the planning stages of implementing an online medical record keeping system.

We continue to receive calls every week from residents who need our services and there is no waiting list. The question of touching base with the school seniors during graduation in light of the recent tragedy was brought up and support will be available during Project Graduation at Quassy.

V. Finance Report:

Community Services: Overtime is mainly from Recreation and will change July 1st. After that any line will be from Community Services and the Senior Center.

Senior Center: Charges are for bus and building maintenance.

Day Care: Fiscal year goes from 1/1/08 – 12/31/08 and is funded mainly by the State Department of Social Services.

VI. Old Business:

There is none to discuss.

VII. New Business:

Mr. Sorkin invited the Commissioners to visit the Community Services offices. Painting of the offices is complete and provides a more welcoming environment for clients. Ms. Hannon will speak to the Commissioners during the summer to get a date, if possible.

Ms. McKeon would like an organizational chart to be mailed this month so the Commissioners will be aware of staff changes. When the notice for the September meeting is sent, budget information from previous months will also be included.

VIII. Public Participation:

One person was in attendance but no there was no participation.

IX. Adjournment:

Scott Leamon made a Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Antoinette McKeon. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.